



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Financial Officer and**  
**Assistant Secretary for Administration**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 28, 2019

Mr. CJ Ciaramella  
MuckRock  
MuckRock DEPT MR 32448 411A  
Highland Ave  
Sommerville, MA 02144

RE: FOIA request DOC-IOS-2017-000675

Dear Mr. Ciaramella:

This letter is in response to your correspondence, February 22, 2017, to the Department of Commerce's (Department's) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office. According to our records, we received your request in this office on February 23, 2017, and have assigned to it tracking number "DOC-IOS-2017-000675". We are responding under the FOIA to your request for:

"All communications originating from the White House or Commerce Office of the White House Liaison—including the personal emails of White House officials if used for work business—to the Commerce Secretary, Commerce undersecretaries, and/or Commerce Office of Public Affairs between Jan. 20, 2017 and Jan. 24, 2017.

Enclosed are twelve (12) documents consisting of (16 pages) that are responsive to your request. We are withholding portions of ten (10) documents (14 pages) with withholding determinations noted. We withheld portions of the documents pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). We are releasing one (1) to you in its entirety. One (1) document has been referred to another Government Agency for disclosure review and determination. Upon receipt of this response, I will send you the outcome for the document.

Exemption (b)(6) exempts from disclosure (1) personnel, medical files and similar files, (2) the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). The phrase "similar files" has been broadly defined to include any Government records on an individual, which can be identified as applying to that individual. See Dep't of State v. Washington Post Co., 456 U.S. 595, 601-02 (1982).

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact me, Bobbie Parsons, FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary, by telephone at 202-482-3257 or by e-mail at [BParsons@doc.gov](mailto:BParsons@doc.gov). You may also contact the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, Carrie Hyde-Michaels.

Carrie Hyde-Michaels  
Deputy Chief Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
& Deputy Program Director of Departmental FOIA/Privacy Act Operations  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Privacy and Open Government  
Office: (202) 482-3842  
Email: [chyde-michaels@doc.gov](mailto:chyde-michaels@doc.gov)

Mr. CJ Ciaramella  
Doc-IOs-2017-000675  
June 27, 2019  
Page 2

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free  
at 1 877-684-6448, or facsimile at 202-741-5769

You have the right to appeal this partial denial of your FOIA request. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter. Address your appeal to the following office:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information (Office)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of the General Counsel  
Room 5890  
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to [FOIAAppeals@doc.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@doc.gov), by facsimile (fax) to (202) 482-2552, or by FOIAonline, if you have an account in FOIAonline, at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home#>. The appeal should include a copy of the original request and initial denial, if any. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why the records requested should be made available and why the adverse determination was in error.

The appeal letter, the envelope, the e-mail subject line, and the fax cover sheet should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The e-mail, fax machine, FOIAonline, and Office are monitored only on working days during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, fax machine, FOIAonline, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Parsons  
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Office of Privacy and Open Government

Attachments: PW (b)(6) documents  
Release in full document